

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200420
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00
/075 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:DSHARRIS:JG
APPROVED BY EA - MR. OAKLEY
EA/TIMBS:HEMEINHEIT
EA/RA:RJMARTENS
D/HA:KHILL

-----019642 231830Z /45

R 231632Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN
THAILAND

FOR THE CHARGE FROM OAKLEY

1. DEPARTMENT IS DISTURBED BY RECENT REPORTS FROM BOTH
THE EMBASSY AND THE AFL-CIO THAT PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS
MAY BE DISSOLVED BY THE RTG AND THAT IT IS SERIOUSLY
RESTRICTING PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS. A BASIC TENET OF
OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS WHENEVER
POSSIBLE AND TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE. FURTHERMORE, THIS
TENET GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION'S
EMPHASIS ON THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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FOR THESE REASONS, AMONG OTHERS, WE HAVE PROVIDED GRANT
ASSISTANCE TO AAFLI FOR ITS LABOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE.

2.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU SHOULD AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNICATE TO A HIGH LEVEL OF THE RTG, PREFERABLY EITHER
PRIME MINISTER THANIN AND/OR INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK,

OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE RTG'S LABOR POLICIES AND OUR HOPE

THAT THEY WILL EVOLVE IN THE DIRECTION OF ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. YOU MAY NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO USG INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM, THAILAND HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF AAFLI, BOTH IN WHAT IT HAS DONE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF LOCAL WORKERS AND IN WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR THAILAND'S IMAGE WITH THE AFL-CIO. LOSS OF SUPPORT BY THE LATTER WOULD NOT BE OF BENEFIT TO THAILAND, AND COULD ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ATTITUDES IN THE CONGRESS. YOU COULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF A STRONG, FREE AND RESPONSIBLE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS GREATLY INHIBITED THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEFT-WING REGIMES.

3. BEFORE MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE TO THE RTG YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH AAFLI.

4. I REGRET THAT WE DID NOT HAVE THIS GUIDANCE FOR YOU PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH SAMAK REPORTED BANGKOK 18463. AS USUAL, YOU TOOK JUST THE RIGHT LINE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE200420
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Drafter: DSHARRIS:JG
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770832/aaaabauf.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 52c5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1513522
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND FOR THE CHARGE FROM OAKLEY
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, TH
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Review Markings:
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